## Preventing Extremism & Radicalisation Policy

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Statement of Policy on Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation

(This forms part of the school’s wider safeguarding policy)

Rationale:
This policy is linked to the School’s Safeguarding Policy and the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Partnership to ensure that The Heys School provides a secure environment for students where children feel safe and are kept safe. Schools have a vital role to play in protecting students from the risks of extremism and radicalisation, a role which will be underpinned by the duty outlined in Section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, “to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent duty which came into force on 1 July 2015 and is organised into four general themes: risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training and IT policies.

In order to fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that staff at The Heys School can identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do if this happens. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of our wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

We can also build students’ resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. We do not intend to stop students talking about or debating controversial issues. On the contrary, in school, we want to provide a safe space in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

What is extremism?
When operating this policy, the school uses the following accepted governmental definition of extremism as:

“Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas”.

Violent extremism is defined by the Crown prosecution Service (CPS) as:

“The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views, which:

- Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
- Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
- Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts;
- Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.

School ethos and intent
There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources: students, staff or governors; or external sources such as the local community, external agencies or visitors. Equally, we wish to provide opportunities where students can naturally explore
controversial issues safely; this policy gives a broad indication of how this is facilitated by school. We want to build students’ resilience to radicalisation by promoting our British values which will enable students to challenge any extremist views.

School practice

The school will always challenge any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language whether by pupil or staff in-line with our Behaviour Policy for students or Staff code of conduct.

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation, students and staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to whistleblow or raise any issue in confidence. Please refer to related policies below.

Risk Assessment

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with managing other safeguarding risks, we should be alert to changes in children’s behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Children at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views.

School staff are expected to use their professional judgment in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately. The Prevent duty does not require teachers or childcare providers to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life but as with any other safeguarding risk, they must take action when they observe behaviour of concern.

As part of their wider safeguarding responsibilities, all school staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures made by students of their exposure or the exposure of others to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where students have not actively sought these out;
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images;
- Students accessing or promoting extremist material on-line, including through social networking sites;
- Parental reports, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting students in other schools or settings;
- Students voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives;
- Use of extremist or ‘hate’ terms to exclude others or incite violence;
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our Equalities Policy, views based on, but not exclusive to: gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture;
- Attempt to impose extremist views or practices on others.
- Children Missing in Education (CME) or patterns of attendance giving rise to concern

What happens if there is a concern?

The school’s normal safeguarding and child protection procedures are followed. Concerns are immediately brought to the attention of the school’s Designated Safeguarding Lead (Helen Pickavance) or one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (Rachel Evans, Jane Wilson or Francesca Lord).

Channel referrals will be discussed by the school Safeguarding Team if appropriate and in accordance with government guidelines.
We may contact our local Prevent / Channel Police Officer for advice and guidance:

Contact details for Bury Prevent / Channel Officer:
DC 14351 Andy Webb
GMP CTPNW
0161 856 2476 / 07391409342 / Andrew.Webb@gmp.police.uk

The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) where concerns relating to extremism can be directly reported.

Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

Please note that the helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.

If appropriate, referrals will be made to the Channel programme. This is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to any person who is identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The school will use this mechanism if we are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation.

The risk factors set out in Channel guidance:

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists
- A change to style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group
- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred around an extremist ideology, group or cause
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, cause or group
- Possession of material or symbols associated with an extremist cause
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause/ideology
- Communications with others that suggest identification with an extremist group / cause / ideology

Working in partnership

The Prevent duty builds on existing local safeguarding partnership arrangements.

The Local Safeguarding Partnership are responsible for co-ordinating local agencies’ roles and responses towards safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their local area. Local authorities are vital to all aspects of Prevent work and they operate in conjunction with other partners, in particular the police and also civil society organisations, in order to provide advice and support in respect of Prevent or other safeguarding concerns.

Effective engagement with parents / the family is also important as families are in a key position to spot signs of radicalisation. As a school, we will always seek to assist and advise families who raise concerns and signpost them to appropriate support, in addition to following our own established procedures.

Staff training
The statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.

Key staff have received special individual training in accordance with their role in school.

Two members of staff are accredited to deliver the WRAP CPD (Workshop to raise awareness of Prevent) in school (Miss H Pickavance and Miss J Leary).

All of our staff received WRAP training on Prevent as part of staff training in January 2019.

All staff completed the Home Office e-learning Prevent training course in April / May 2020.

Induction training ensures that staff who are new to school are aware of their duty in respect of Prevent. All new staff who join the school are required to complete a training brief about the Prevent Strategy and complete the Home Office e-learning Prevent training course at induction.

**IT policies**

School is aware of the increased risk of online radicalisation, as terrorist organisations such as ISIS seek to radicalise young people through the use of social media and the internet.

The statutory guidance makes clear the need for schools to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools.

The Heys School ensures that suitable filtering and monitoring are in place. Internet safety is integral to our IT curriculum and is also embedded in SMSC.

**Building children’s resilience to radicalisation**

Schools play an important role in enabling young people to explore issues like terrorism and the wider use of violence in a safe, considered and informed way. We believe that we can build students’ resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making.

Schools can facilitate understanding of wider issues within the context of learning about the values on which our society is founded and our system of democratic government. These are important for reasons which go far beyond Prevent but they connect to the Prevent agenda. We promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students and, within this, fundamental British values, (see Values and Ethos Policy). This is effective in providing students with time to explore sensitive or controversial issues, and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations. The subject teaches students to recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing. Through a robust tutor system that teaches the key principals of the British Values we encourage our students to exude those ideologies in their day to day life. Finally, we encourage students to develop positive character traits through PSHE, such as resilience, determination, self-esteem, and confidence.

**The role of parents in preventing extremism and radicalisation**
Parents who have concerns about their children can contact the school for advice on how to keep their children safe from these risks.

As part of the increased support that the Due Diligence and Counter Extreme Group (DDCEG) is able to provide, there is a dedicated telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) which anyone can call to raise concerns relating to extremism directly and in confidence.

The anti-terrorist hotline number is 0800 789 321.

The following links also offer guidance for parents:


https://educateagainsthate.com/signs-of-radicalisation/

Equality and Diversity

The policy ensures that no-one is treated in any way less favourably on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic or social origin, race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, age, religion/ belief or political/ other personal beliefs.

Other related policies and sources of information:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Staff code of conduct
- Equality Policy
- SMSC Policy
- Mobile Phone policy
- Attendance policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- The Prevent Duty for Schools
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Keeping children safe in education September 2020
- Working together to safeguard children July 2018
Appendix 1:

**PATHWAY FOR CHANNEL REFERRALS FOR BURY:** This pathway should be read in conjunction with the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership policy on Safeguarding Children and Young People vulnerable to violent extremism (4.38)

**INTRODUCTION:** The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children, young people and vulnerable adults to involve them in terrorism or activity in support of terrorism.

Bury Council and Greater Manchester Police; agree that this exploitation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

This pathway is intended to provide a clear referral process for all professionals working with children for whom there are concerns that they or the young person’s family are at risk of becoming involved in violent extremist or terrorist activity.

The pathway includes the link between safeguarding procedures and the Channel programme, and provides a mechanism for supporting those who may be vulnerable to violent extremism or terrorism by assessing the nature and the extent of the potential risk and, where necessary, providing an appropriate support package.

**PREVENT AND INDICATORS:** Under the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015, there have been a number of duties that have been placed on specified agencies. These duties are to support agencies in preventing young people from becoming involved in terrorist or extremist behaviour.

**INFORMATION SHARING:** There is a statutory duty for workers to share information where there are concerns about the safety or well being of a child or vulnerable adult.

**REFERRAL PATHWAY:** If, at any stage, it is felt that the individual poses an immediate danger to themselves or any other person, the police should be called immediately. Each agency will have a safeguarding lead who should be advised of any concerns in relation to protecting individuals; this will include radicalisation and involvement in terrorism.

Once a concern is identified the safeguarding lead or designated person must contact either the Channel team or Children’s Social Care Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for advice and guidance about the appropriateness of making a referral to MASH. Once a referral has been made to Children’s Social Care this will then progress to the Channel Team who will identify whether threshold for service support is met.

If Channel identify that further involvement is required by Childrens Social Care, they will refer back to MASH for a Child & Family Assessment, this will be completed alongside the Channel involvement.

Children’s Social Care MASH: 0161 253 5678 / Childwellbeing@bury.gov.uk

Lead Officer for Safeguarding in Education: TBC (no one currently in post)
REFERRAL RESPONSE

Should a referral progress to a Channel case then the Channel team will make every effort to notify the referrer, where appropriate, of the outcome of involvement. If the referrer has not had feedback from the Channel team within 10 working days, the referrer should contact directly the Channel team.

Channel Referral Form:

https://assets.ctfassets.net/ii3xdrqc6nfw/2UhL89KoBavUhni5l9umLP/549e176bcccbb9c309bb0fb86c4e4fd/Channel_Referral_Form.pdf
APPENDIX 2: Preventing Violent Extremism Flowchart

Preventing Violent Extremism Safeguarding Flowchart

Practitioner has concerns about a child’s welfare

The individual is in immediate danger.

Practitioner discusses with nominated safeguarding lead / SPOC

If it is not suitable for Channel then signpost on to an appropriate support agency.

Phone the police AND ensure you make a child protection/vulnerable adult referral to the local authority children’s and social care service by phone. Confirm in writing within 48 hours.

Concerns identified as a child with additional needs.

Safeguarding lead / SPOC contacts Channel.

Referral made to Channel. Vulnerability and risk assessment, report prepared.

Multi-agency safeguarding meeting convened

Statutory involvement

Coordinator to make links with existing processes.

Case planning process implemented.

No statutory involvement